

## **EXHIBIT 2**

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION**

**THE DUGABOY INVESTMENT TRUST,**

*Plaintiff,*

**V.**

**HIGHLAND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT,  
LP,**

*Defendant.*



Cause No. \_\_\_\_\_

### ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

This matter concerns grave accounts of self-dealing and deception and seeks redress for violation of federal law including, but not limited to, violations of the Advisers Act of 1940, and other state causes of action.

## I.

**PARTIES**

**1.** Plaintiff, The Dugaboy Investment Trust (“Plaintiff”), is a Delaware perpetual non-revocable trust with its principal place of business in Dallas County, Texas.

2. Defendant Highland Capital Management LP (“Highland” or “HCMLP”) is a Delaware limited partnership, whose principal place of business is in Dallas, Texas.

## II.

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

**3.** Subject matter jurisdiction is proper in this court under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and under 28 U.S.C. § 1334 because the suit arises out of post-petition acts or omissions of the debtor and certain of its principals.

4. This Court has general personal jurisdiction over Defendant Highland Capital Management, LP, because it has continuously done business in this state, and the causes of action arise from the acts or omissions committed in this state.

5. Venue is proper in this Court because a substantial number of the acts or omissions giving rise to this lawsuit and the causes of action asserted herein occurred in Dallas County.

### III.

#### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

6. HCMLP is a registered investment advisor (“RIA”) subject to the regulations of the Securities Exchange Commission.

7. HCMLP is both the advisor of and investor in Highland Multi Strategy Credit Fund, LP (“Multistrat”), a Delaware limited partnership. Highland Multi Strategy Credit Fund GP, L.P., itself a Delaware limited partnership, is the general partner of Multistrat, and HCMLP is the sole member of the general partner of Highland Multi Strategy Credit Fund GP, L.P.

8. HCMLP’s advisory capacity is governed, or at all relevant times was governed, by the Third Amended and Restated Investment Management Agreement, effective November 1, 2013 (the “IMA”).

9. The purpose of Multistrat as a vehicle was stated as such: “The Fund's investment objective is to seek attractive risk-adjusted returns, consistent with the preservation of capital and prudent investment management.”

10. The Confidential Private Placement Memorandum for Multistrat disclosed that “[t]he Investment Manager is registered as an investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the U.S. Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the ‘Advisers Act’).

Each prospective investor will be required to make a representation to indicate that it is a 'qualified client' as defined in the Advisers Act.”

**11.** Because of these agreements and roles as the General Partner and RIA, Highland owed contractual and fiduciary duties to Plaintiff, as an investor in Multistrat.

**12.** James Seery, the principal, CEO, and CRO of HCMLP in its capacity as a debtor, admitted under oath that HCMLP owes fiduciary duties to the investors of the funds HCMLP manages—which would include Multistrat—and therefore, has admitted under oath that HCMLP and its governed persons owe fiduciary duties to the investors in Multistrat, which includes Plaintiff, the Charitable DAF Fund, Ltd., and Highland Capital Management Services, Inc., among others.

**13.** As an investment vehicle advised at all times and controlled at all times by HCMLP, Multistrat purchased and owned a pool of viaticals—investments in life insurance policies keyed to the lives of other persons. When a person passes away, the life insurance money is paid to the owner of the policy—in this case, Multistrat.

**14.** The notional value of the viatical pool was approximately \$145 million.

**15.** In or around August 2020, HCMLP sold the entire viatical pool for approximately \$35,000,000 – less than one quarter of the insured value.

**16.** The policies insured people aged 90 on average, suggesting that the policies were highly likely to pay off in the ensuing few years given the age and life expectancies of the insureds, as well as considering the actuarial impact of the COVID pandemic.

**17.** In the spring of 2020, Multistrat raised funds specifically for the purpose of paying the premiums on the viatical pool—amounts raised, borrowing availability, and liquid securities provided enough cash to pay the premiums. But HCMLP did not pursue this path as promised.

Instead, it sold the assets. To this day it is unclear why the policies were sold, and why, just prior to a planned mediation.

18. Furthermore, the process of selling was severely flawed. For example, the health assessments used to determine the likelihood and timeline for the payout were two years old. HCMLP did not cause new, up-to-date health assessments to be performed, and instead was content to rely on stale information or worse, no information at all.

19. Furthermore, HCMLP made no effort to adjust the projected life expectancies due to the increasing age of the insureds during a process that stretched over seven months, nor for the potential impact of COVID on people over the age of 90, which would have impacted the price..

20. Equally troubling is that Multistrat obtained the funds to pay the premiums from another investor—yet, it apparently did not use the funds for that purpose.

21. HCMLP apparently used the proceeds of the sale to pay itself, notwithstanding the fact that there were redeemed interests waiting to be paid—interests to whom HCMLP also owed fiduciary duties.

22. In short, HCMLP caused Multistrat to sell the viatical pool at a substantially discounted amount to curry favor with the brokers and buyers in the marketplace for no apparent benefit to Multistrat's investors or the debtor's estate.

### **III.**

#### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

##### **First Cause of Action** **Breach of Fiduciary Duty**

23. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

24. As an RIA, HCMLP is subject to the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

25. The contracts set forth above—the subscription agreement and the IMA—impose and incorporate the duties and obligations of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

26. Under this federal law, an investment adviser is a fiduciary.<sup>1</sup> This includes a duty of care, a duty of loyalty, and a duty to refrain from engaging in transactions in which it is not a disinterested person.

27. The duty of loyalty imposed by the Advisers Act of 1940 is not specifically defined in the Advisers Act or in Commission rules, but reflects a Congressional recognition “of the delicate fiduciary nature of an investment advisory relationship” as well as a Congressional intent to “eliminate, or at least to expose, all conflicts of interest which might incline an investment adviser—consciously or unconsciously—to render advice which was not disinterested.”

28. To meet its duty of loyalty, an adviser must make full and fair disclosure to its clients of all material facts relating to the advisory relationship, including disclosing transactions in which the advisor has an interest, and to disclose all pertinent facts of a transaction that could affect the client or the client’s interest.<sup>2</sup> In order for disclosure to be full and fair, it should be sufficiently specific so that a client is able to understand the material fact or conflict of interest and make an informed decision whether to provide consent.

---

<sup>1</sup> *SEC v. Capital Gains Research Bureau, Inc.*, 375 U.S. 180, 194 (1963). *Santa Fe Indus. v. Green*, 430 U.S. 462, 471, n.11 (1977) (in discussing *SEC v. Capital Gains*, stating that the Supreme Court’s reference to fraud in the “equitable” sense of the term was “premised on its recognition that Congress intended the Investment Advisers Act to establish federal fiduciary standards for investment advisers”); Investment Advisers Act Release No. 3060 (July 28, 2010) (“Under the Advisers Act, an adviser is a fiduciary whose duty is to serve the best interests of its clients, which includes an obligation not to subrogate clients’ interests to its own,” citing *Proxy Voting by Investment Advisers*, Investment Advisers Act Release No. IA2106 (Jan. 31, 2003) (“Investment Advisers Act Release 2106”)).

<sup>2</sup> *SEC v. Capital Gains*, *supra*, at 200 (“Failure to disclose material facts must be deemed fraud or deceit within its intended meaning.”). Investment Advisers Act Release 3060, *supra*, footnote 15 (“as a fiduciary, an adviser has an ongoing obligation to inform its clients of any material information that could affect the advisory relationship”); see also General Instruction 3 to Part 2 of Form ADV (“Under federal and state law, you are a fiduciary and must make full disclosure to your clients of all material facts relating to the advisory relationship.”).

29. This fiduciary duty also requires an adviser “to adopt the principal’s goals, objectives, or ends.” This means the adviser must, at all times, serve the best interest of its client and not subordinate its client’s interest to its own. In other words, the investment adviser cannot place its own interests ahead of the interests of its client and must at all times act for the interests of its investors.<sup>3</sup>

30. Here, the goals of Multistrat included “to seek attractive risk adjusted returns, consistent with the preservation of capital and prudent investment management.”

31. The duty of care includes, among other things: (i) the duty to provide advice that is in the best interest of the client, (ii) the duty to seek best execution of a client’s transactions where the adviser has the responsibility to select broker-dealers to execute client trades, and (iii) the duty to provide advice and monitoring over the course of the relationship.

32. These fiduciary duties are **unwaivable**, and any agreement made in derogation of the obligations under the Advisers Act is **void**.

33. HCMLP’s CEO testified under oath that he and HCMLP were aware of these duties and had to comply with them.

34. Section 204 of the Advisers Act requires HCMLP to carry written policies and procedures that must be followed in order to adhere to its federal obligations.

35. Section 206 of the Advisers Act prohibits transactions by an adviser that were accomplished via a “deceit” on a client or prospective client, e.g., by concealing the role and

---

<sup>3</sup> Investment Advisers Act Release 3060 (adopting amendments to Form ADV and stating that “[u]nder the Advisers Act, an adviser is a fiduciary whose duty is to serve the best interests of its clients, which includes an obligation not to subrogate clients’ interests to its own,” citing Investment Advisers Act Release 2106, supra footnote 15). *SEC v. Tambone*, 550 F.3d 106, 146 (1st Cir. 2008) (“Section 206 imposes a fiduciary duty on investment advisers to act at all times in the best interest of the fund...”); *SEC v. Moran*, 944 F. Supp. 286, 297 (S.D.N.Y. 1996) (“Investment advisers are entrusted with the responsibility and duty to act in the best interest of their clients.”).

interest the adviser has in the transaction, or via engaging in a course of conduct that has a tendency to mislead a client or which is manipulative.

**36.** These breaches include, but are not limited to (1) selling the viatical pool at a distressed price when it was not in distress and there was no need for Multistrat to sell; (2) concealing the information about the transaction from the Plaintiff; (3) failing to advise the Plaintiff of the opportunity to purchase the viatical pool—especially when it knew the Plaintiff had an interest in the pool and had the means of purchasing it for more cash than \$35 million; (4) concealing the purpose behind the sale of the viatical pool and the conflicts of interest that inhere in the transaction; (5) causing the viatical pool to be sold in a manner that violated the rights of the Plaintiff as an investor in Multistrat (e.g., by failing to conduct an auction, obtaining competitive bids, and taking the pool to market); and (6) utilizing the sale proceeds for its own ends—namely, to enrich itself.

**37.** The Advisors Act declares any contract that was made in violation of its provisions or regulations, or any contract that has been performed in violation of the Advisors Act, **void**.

**38.** The Advisers Act created a private right of action to void unlawful agreements and acts and to seek such equitable relief as accompanies such claims.

**39.** Texas law allows a fiduciary plaintiff to seek damages for breaches of fiduciary duty and to seek disgorgement of all ill-gotten gains obtained by a fiduciary.

**40.** Plaintiff has been damaged due to the breaches of fiduciary duty outlined herein, and it is entitled to recover damages, punitive damages, and attorneys' fees.

**41.** To the extent this claim must be brought as a derivative action, it is plain that the demand requirement under Delaware law could not be met because serving a demand on Highland or to sue Highland would have been futile.



**Second Cause of Action**  
**Breach of Contract**

42. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

43. The contracts set forth above—the subscription agreement and the IMA—impose a duty of prudent investment management for the benefit of the investors in Multistrat and incorporate the duties and obligations of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

44. The violations set forth above constitute a breach of each or both of these agreements.

45. These breaches include, but are not limited to (1) selling the viatical pool at a distressed price when it was not in distress and there was no need for Multistrat to sell; (2) concealing the information about the transaction from the Plaintiff; (3) failing to advise the Plaintiff of the opportunity to purchase the viatical pool—especially when it knew the Plaintiff had an interest in the pool and had the means of purchasing it for more cash than \$35 million; (4) concealing the purpose behind the sale of the ,viatical pool and the conflicts of interest that inhere in the transaction; (5) causing the viatical pool to be sold in a manner that violated the rights of the Plaintiff as an investor in Multistrat (e.g., by failing to conduct an auction, obtaining competitive bids, and taking the pool to market); and (6) utilizing the sale proceeds for its own ends—namely, to enrich itself.

46. Plaintiff has been damaged by the breaches of contract outlined herein.

47. Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages and attorneys' fees.

**JURY DEMAND AND PRAYER**

48. Plaintiff demands trial by jury.

49. Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment and an order:

- Disgorging all ill-gotten gains in an amount to be determined at trial;

- Voiding the IMA agreements herein with HCMLP pursuant to the Advisers Act;
- Awarding damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- Awarding punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- Awarding attorneys' fees and costs in an amount to be determined at trial;
- Awarding all interim and final relief to which Plaintiff is legally or equitably entitled under the facts and circumstances raised herein.

Dated: June 23, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

**SBAITI & COMPANY PLLC**

/s/ Mazin A. Sbaiti

**Mazin A. Sbaiti**

Texas Bar No. 24058096

**Jonathan Bridges**

Texas Bar No. 24028835

JPMorgan Chase Tower

2200 Ross Avenue – Suite 4900W

Dallas, TX 75201

T: (214) 432-2899

F: (214) 853-4367

E: mas@sbaitilaw.com

jeb@sbaitilaw.com

**Counsel for Plaintiff**

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**  
  
The Dugaboy Investment Trust  
  
**(b)** County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Dallas County  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  
  
**(c)** Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)  
  
Sbaiti & Company PLLC, 2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 4900W,  
Dallas, TX 75201 (T: 214-432-2899)

**DEFENDANTS**  
  
Highland Capital Management, LP  
  
County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Dallas County  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  
  
NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  
  
Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  
  
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff  
  
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant  
  
☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)  
  
☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)  
  

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  
  

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice  <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability  <b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other  <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act  <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016  <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))  <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  
  
☒ 1 Original Proceeding  
☐ 2 Removed from State Court  
☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court  
☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened  
☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)  
☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer  
☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**  
  
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
15 U.S.C. § 80b-1  
Brief description of cause:  
Adviser's Act

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**  
  
☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.  
**DEMAND \$**  
  
**CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:**  
**JURY DEMAND:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY** (See instructions):  
  
JUDGE Stacey G. Jernigan DOCKET NUMBER 19-34054-sgj11 NDTXBK

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**  
  
RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_ JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

## Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related cases, if any. If a related case exists, whether pending or closed, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases. A case is related to this filing if the case: 1) involves some or all of the same parties and is based on the same or similar claim; 2) involves the same property, transaction, or event; 3) involves substantially similar issues of law and fact; and/or 4) involves the same estate in a bankruptcy appeal.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.